

DAVID IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

JOSH GREEN
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

VOTING MEMBERS

SUZANNE CASE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL
RESOURCES

DENISE ALBANO
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

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DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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DAVID RODRIGUEZ
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

PUBLIC MEETING NOTICE

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

June 9, 2021, 1:00 p.m

Considering the evolving COVID-19 situation, protecting the health and welfare of the community is of utmost concern. As such, the meeting will be held remotely, with Council members, legislative participants, and staff participating via online meeting software. We will attempt to livestream the meeting

at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFT6SAASZIUxd_XgZMCjGsQ

For individuals or entities wishing to provide written, oral, or video testimony during the meeting, please refer to the "Protocol for providing testimony for remote meetings of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council" below this agenda.

AGENDA

1. Call to order
2. Introductions
3. Approval of minutes from January 27, 2021 meeting
4. Submittal: Requesting approval of HISC Resources Working Group members
5. Presentation: Coordinated efforts of the Biocontrol Working Group in the planning, construction, and operation of Pacific Regional Biocontrol Facilities by HDOA, UH, USDA FS, and USDA ARS
6. Submittal: Supporting the Planning, Construction, & Operation of Pacific Regional Biocontrol Facilities and Committing Agency Engagement
7. Public Comments
8. Adjournment

The Council may go into Executive Session pursuant to Section 92-5(a) (4), Hawai'i Revised Statutes, in order to consult with its attorney on questions and issues pertaining to the Council's powers, duties, privileges, immunities and liabilities.

Individuals requesting special accommodations (e.g., large print materials, sign-language interpreters) are asked to contact the staff below at least three days prior to the meeting.

Protocol for providing testimony for remote meetings of the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

Testimony may be provided in person or in writing, submitted electronically to

Randal.T.Bartlett@hawaii.gov. To give Board members sufficient time to consider written testimony, please submit the testimony no later than 24 hours prior to the Board Meeting. Any late written testimony will be retained as a part of the record, but we cannot assure that Board members will receive it with sufficient time for review prior to decision-making. Written testimony will be acknowledged at the meeting.

To provide **live oral/video testimony** during the online meeting, email your request to Randal.T.Bartlett@hawaii.gov at least 24 hours in advance, with your name, phone number, email address, computer identification name (check your device settings), and the agenda item you would like to testify on live during the meeting. Once your request has been received, you will receive a Zoom link via which to testify. You will need a computer with internet access, video camera and microphone to participate. If you require access by phone only, please indicate that in your email request.

Public testimony will be taken when each agenda item is discussed. You can monitor meeting progress via YouTube livestream at this link: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFT6SAASZIUxd_XgZMCjGsQ

Testifiers will be called on by a co-Chair to offer testimony. Until that time, you will be placed in a “Waiting Room”. While waiting to provide testimony, you will need to mute your microphone and turn off your video. When it is your turn to speak, you will be given full access to the meeting. At that time, if you are watching the YouTube livestream, you will need to mute the YouTube livestream to avoid feedback.

When testifying, please state your first and last name for the record. If you are testifying on behalf of an organization, please include the name of the organization as well. Testimony will be limited to a maximum of three (3) minutes. You will be given notice when 30 seconds remain. If you continue to testify beyond your allotted time, a co-Chair will kindly ask you to complete your testimony.

If you have submitted written testimony and have also signed up to deliver it orally, the Chair will ask you to kindly summarize your points.

When you have finished testifying, you will be put back in the “Waiting Room”. Please stay there until your agenda item is complete in case Council Members have questions.

Staff will be monitoring people joining the Board meeting by video and will do their best to take each person in an orderly fashion. Please be patient as we continue to navigate this new platform.

For information, contact:

HISC Support staff:

Randy Bartlett, Interagency Coordinator: 870-6443, [Randal.T.Bartlett \[at\] hawaii.gov](mailto:Randal.T.Bartlett@hawaii.gov)

Leyla Kaufman, Māmalu Poepoe Project Coordinator: [leyla \[at\] hawaii.edu](mailto:leyla@hawaii.edu)

Chelsea Arnott, Planner: [Chelsea.L.Arnott \[at\] hawaii.gov](mailto:Chelsea.L.Arnott@hawaii.gov)

Elizabeth Speith, 643pest.org Report Facilitator: [speith \[at\] hawaii.edu](mailto:speith@hawaii.edu)

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PUBLIC MEETING DRAFT MINUTES

Hawaii Invasive Species Council
January 27, 2021, 10 AM

Considering the evolving COVID-19 situation, protecting the health and welfare of the community is of utmost concern. As such, the meeting was held remotely, with Council members, legislative participants, and staff participating via online meeting software. The meeting was livestreamed

at: https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFT6SAASZIUxd_XgZMCjGsQ

1. Call to order by Co-Chair:

- a. Council: Suzanne Case (Chair-DLNR), Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser (Chair-HDOA), Mary Alice Evans (DBEDT), David Rodriguez (HDOT), Nicholas Comerford (UH-CTAHR, joined approximately 10:24am)
- b. Legislators: Brandon Kim (Sen. Gabbard staff)
- c. Guests: Adam Radford (MISC)
- d. HISC staff: Leyla Kaufman, Josh Atwood, Chelsea Arnott, Randy Bartlett
- e. Called to order 10:02 AM by Chair Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser

2. Approval of the minutes from August 27, 2020 meeting:

- a. Mary Alice Evans: Motion to Approve
- b. Suzanne Case: Seconded. Approved.
- c. Josh Atwood: Suggest minor corrections, capitalizing the word Zoom, add Hawaiian diacritics (approved unanimously).

3. Submittal: Requesting Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) approval for potential activities as part of a 2021 Hawai'i Invasive Species Awareness Month (HISAM) and delegating to the HISC Support Program staff the annual coordination of activities and the selection of awardees for HISAM to be recognized in the Council's name

- a. Chelsea Arnott, HISC Support Staff, listed activities for HISAM: Over 30 webinars, activities and engagement through social media, opening and closing ceremony with Hālau 'Ōhi'a, awards for HISAM winners. Randy Bartlett, HISC Support Staff, listed recommended awardees (see HISC website for final 2021 award recipients).
 - i. Mary Alice Evans: Motion to accept.
 - ii. David Rodriguez: Seconded. Approved.

4. Submittal: Requesting Council approval to delegate to Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) Support Program staff the authority to track legislative measures, provide in the Council's name written and/or oral testimony, and provide comments in legislative hearings, and requesting that the Council delegates to the HISC Program Support Staff

the authority to draft and provide in the Council's name written and/or oral comments on documents relevant to invasive species and released by other entities for input

- i. Mary Alice Evans: Motion to approve.
- ii. David Rodriguez: Seconded. Motion approved.
- iii. Josh Atwood: permission to clarify in submittal recommendation that the delegation is specifically to the HISC Support Program staff (approved).

5. Public Comments

- a. No submitted testimony
- b. Adam Radford (Maui Invasive Species Committee): MISC requested to provide an update. Adam extended his thanks to the council for their work on HISAM in years past and taking this year's event virtual.

1. Adjournment:

- a. Nick Comerford: Motion to adjourn
- b. Suzanne Case: Seconded. Motion approved.
- c. Meeting adjourned at 10:25 pm.

For information, contact:

HISC Support staff: 1151 Punchbowl St, #325, Honolulu, HI 96813; Fax: 587-0160

Josh Atwood, Program Supervisor: 587-4154, Joshua.P.Atwood [at] hawaii.gov

Randy Bartlett, Interagency Coordinator: 870-6443, Randal.T.Bartlett [at] hawaii.gov

Leyla Kaufman, Mamalu Poepoe Project Coordinator: leyla [at] hawaii.edu

Chelsea Arnott, Planner: Chelsea.L.Arnott [at] hawaii.gov

Elizabeth Speith, 643pest.org Report Facilitator: speith [at] hawaii.edu

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DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

JUNE 9, 2021

SUBMITTAL

TO: CO-CHAIRS AND MEMBERS
HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL
STATE OF HAWAII

FROM: CHELSEA ARNOTT
PLANNER, HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

SUBJECT: RECOMMENDING APPROVAL OF THE HISC RESOURCES WORKING
GROUP

BACKGROUND

Since its inception in 2003, the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) has disbursed funding to support interagency invasive species projects that:

- Fill gaps between agency mandates or existing agency programs, and/or
- Advance our collective knowledge through research and development of new tools.

Funds are disbursed via an intra-governmental granting process wherein state, county, and federal offices may submit requests for funding and meet to collaboratively draft a recommended budget for HISC review.

The HISC Resources Working Group serves as the evaluation committee for the yearly HISC funding process that develops the HISC recommended budget. Members of the Resources Working Group represent the HISC state departments, chairs from the other HISC working groups, and HISC program support staff.

During the funding process, members are asked to evaluate proposals related to their sector or knowledge base (e.g. agriculture, natural resources, tourism, prevention, research, outreach, etc...). All evaluations are compiled into a single spreadsheet for discussion at the Resources Working Group meeting. This meeting is public and applicants are encouraged to attend to answer any questions or comments. Members of the Resources Working Group openly discuss each application and propose an award amount for the overall recommended budget.

DISCUSSION

The HISC Resources Working Group is comprised of members from each of the HISC state departments, chairs from the other HISC working groups, and HISC program support staff.

Below is a list of recommended members to the HISC Resources Working Group:

- Justine Nihipali; Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
- Grace Simmons; Department of Health
- Darcy Oishi; Department of Agriculture
- Janis Matsunaga; Department of Agriculture
- Masatomo Murata; Department of Transportation
- Robert Hauff; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife
- Natalie Dunn; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources
- Kim Fuller; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Aquatic Resources
- Mike Melzer; University of Hawai'i, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
- Christy Martin; UH Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species
- HISC Program Support Staff

Duties of the HISC Resources Working Group include:

- Evaluation of proposals for HISC funding
- Developing the HISC recommended budget for Council approval

The HISC Resources Working Group duties could expand beyond the HISC funding process to identify resource shortfalls for invasive species work and secure dedicated and sustained funding mechanisms and sources.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

- HRS 194-2 (a): Establishes the HISC for the purpose of cabinet-level coordination and planning among state departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives
- HRS 194-2 (a)(2): Advise, consult, and coordinate invasive species-related efforts with and between the departments of agriculture, land and natural resources, health, and transportation, as well as state, federal, international, and privately organized programs and policies.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the HISC approve the recommended members of the HISC Resources Working Group to evaluate HISC funding applications and prepare the recommended budget.
2. That, if there are any additional actions related to identifying and/or securing resources for invasive species work, the Resources Working Group could be utilized to assist that effort with HISC Program Support Staff direction.
3. That, if there are any changes to members of the HISC Resources Working Group, the Council designates HISC Program Support Staff to approve those changes.

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JUNE 9, 2021

SUBMITTAL

TO: CO-CHAIRS AND MEMBERS
HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL
STATE OF HAWAII

FROM: CHELSEA ARNOTT
PLANNER, HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

SUBJECT: REQUESTING A RESOLUTION TO SUPPORT THE PLANNING,
CONSTRUCTION & OPERATION OF PACIFIC REGIONAL BIOLOGICAL CONTROL
FACILITIES IN HAWAII AND COMMITTING AGENCY ENGAGEMENT

BACKGROUND

Classical biological control (biocontrol) is the selection and introduction of a natural enemy of an invasive plant or insect pest which suppresses that pest in its home range. Biocontrol is a cost-effective and sustainable tool that has been successfully employed across the globe for long-term management of some of the world's worst pests and weeds. For certain types of invasive species that have spread beyond the ability to physically control, biocontrol is often the only viable option for reducing the impacts of invasive species.

Hawaii has a long history of safely and effectively using biocontrol to reduce pest populations and their impacts for the benefit of the islands' forests, rangelands, farms, nurseries, and people. Hawaii also is at the forefront of understanding potential unintended impacts of biocontrol on native species and has worked successfully to avoid such risks in the last 50 years. Although Hawaii enjoys broad international respect for its long history of contributions to biocontrol, in recent decades our capacity for biocontrol research has not kept pace with the introduction and spread of invasive species.

Land managers and agricultural specialists in Hawaii have identified many dozens of invasive species as targets for biocontrol, but inadequate greenhouse capacity and limited space for expansion are preventing needed and possible work on some of the most important pests. Furthermore, the two main facilities for biocontrol research, Hawaii Department of Agriculture in Honolulu and U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (USDA FS) on Hawaii Island, are limited by design constraints and cannot handle the smallest of insect biocontrol agents or hold pathogens that could offer the best solutions to managing some of the worst pests. The USDA FS facility in Volcanoes is also located near Kilauea volcano that has its risks and challenges, e.g., access was impacted by the recent eruption that closed area roads.

In addition to facilities, statewide attrition of biological control expertise must be addressed. In the past 20 years, over a time when the need for even more projects and hiring additional specialized staff has increased, retirements and program reductions have decreased the number of active biocontrol researchers in Hawai‘i.

DISCUSSION

The Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (HDOA), University of Hawai‘i, U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service (FS), Agricultural Research Services (ARS) and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services (APHIS) together with their other Hawai‘i government, private and non-profit partners formed the Biocontrol Working Group to mobilize a coordinated effort and regularly communicate on the planning and development of new, state-of-the-art biological control facilities in Hawai‘i that can serve as a regional research center for biological control programs benefiting the mainland US and the Pacific region. A collaborative, multi-agency plan is also needed for maintaining and staffing new biocontrol facilities at a level that more adequately meets the expanding needs of Hawai‘i and the region.

The Biocontrol Working Group has been working since 2018 to identify funding assistance for the planning, construction, and eventual operation of new biological control research and development facilities on the island of O‘ahu and the island of Hawai‘i. Current biocontrol facilities are inadequate to address present and future needs due to under-sized, aging facilities and reduced staffing. New facilities and added professional staff would provide the foundation for a comprehensive multi-partner program to reduce the prevalence and impacts of tropical invasive pests and weeds to agriculture, the economy, the environment, and public health and well-being.

Hawaii’s urgent need for modern biocontrol facilities and additional researchers is recognized as a top priority in the Hawai‘i Interagency Biosecurity Plan and the Western Governors Association’s initiative on invasive species and biosecurity. The Hawai‘i State Legislature has provided initial location scoping funds for a new insect and pathogen biocontrol facility on O‘ahu.

Federal appropriations requests were submitted through Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) and the Coordinating Group Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) for fiscal years 2021 and 2022 requesting USDA assistance in planning and construction of facilities on O‘ahu and Hawai‘i Island.

LEGAL AUTHORITY

- HRS 194-2 (a): Establishes the HISC for the purpose of cabinet-level coordination and planning among state departments, federal agencies, and international and local initiatives
- HRS 194-2 (a)(2): Advise, consult, and coordinate invasive species-related efforts with and between the departments of agriculture, land and natural resources, health, and transportation, as well as state, federal, international, and privately organized programs and policies.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. That the HISC adopt a resolution, substantially similar to the attached draft resolution, in order to:

- a. Recognize the need for new regional biological control research facilities to collaboratively conduct and develop safe and effective biocontrol agents for priority agricultural and environmental pests and weeds that threaten Hawai‘i, the Pacific region, and the continental U.S;
- b. Recognize Hawaii’s need for modern biocontrol facilities and additional researchers is a top priority in the Hawai‘i Interagency Biosecurity Plan and the Western Governors Association’s initiative on biosecurity and invasive species; and
- c. Support the efforts of the Biocontrol Working Group to identify and pursue funding assistance toward planning and development of new, state-of-the-art biological control facilities in Hawai‘i that can serve as a regional research center for biological control programs.

Attachments:

1. Draft HISC Resolution 21-1: Supporting the Planning, Construction, & Operation of Pacific Regional Biocontrol Facilities and Committing Agency Engagement

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OFFICE OF PLANNING, DEPARTMENT OF

RESOLUTION 21-1

SUPPORTING THE PLANNING, CONSTRUCTION & OPERATION OF PACIFIC REGIONAL BIOLOGICAL CONTROL FACILITIES IN HAWAII AND COMMITTING AGENCY ENGAGEMENT

WHEREAS, the State of Hawai‘i, as an archipelago of volcanic origin, has unique natural and cultural resources threatened by the introduction, spread and establishment of non-native invasive species; and

WHEREAS, the term “biocontrol” or “biological control” refers to the selection and introduction of a natural enemy to control an introduced pest that poses risks to the environment, economy, human health, and human well-being; and

WHEREAS, certain types of invasive species have spread beyond the ability to effectively control through chemical and/or mechanical means; and

WHEREAS, biological control is a cost-effective and sustainable tool that has been successfully employed across the globe for long-term management of some of the world’s worst pests and weeds; and

WHEREAS, Hawai‘i has a long history of safely and effectively using biological control to reduce pest populations and their impacts for the benefit of the islands’ forests, rangelands, farms, nurseries, and people; and

WHEREAS, federal and state agencies in Hawai‘i have a long history of collaboration to meet the needs of Hawai‘i and the Pacific islands; and

WHEREAS, capacity for biocontrol research has not kept pace with the introduction and spread of invasive species; and

WHEREAS, current biocontrol programs are poorly equipped for present and future needs due to reduced staffing and under-sized, aging facilities that lack adequate containment facility standards to work on smaller organism; and

WHEREAS, Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture, Hawai‘i Department of Land & Natural Resources, the University of Hawai‘i, the U.S. Department of Agriculture - Forest Service, Agricultural Research Services and Animal and Plant Health Inspection Services together with other federal & state agencies, private and non-profit partners formed the Biocontrol Working Group to collaboratively pursue the planning, construction, and operation of new, state-of-the-art biological control research and development facilities; now, therefore

BE IT RESOLVED that the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council recognizes the need for new regional biological control research facilities to collaboratively conduct and develop safe and effective biological controls for priority agricultural and environmental pests; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council recognizes Hawaii’s need for modern biocontrol facilities and additional researchers as a top priority in the Hawai‘i Interagency Biosecurity Plan and the Western Governors Association’s initiative on biosecurity and invasive species; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council supports the efforts of the Biocontrol Working Group to pursue funding assistance toward planning, construction, and eventual operation of new, state-of-the-art biological control facilities in Hawai‘i that can serve as a regional research center for biological control programs benefiting Hawaii, the mainland U.S. and the Pacific region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Governor of Hawai‘i, the President of the State Senate, and the Speaker of the State House of Representatives.

Adopted by the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Council on the following date: June 9, 2021.

Suzanne D. Case, Dept. of Land & Natural Resources

Phyllis Shimabukuro-Geiser, Dept. of Agriculture

Keith Kawaoka, D. Env., Dept. of Health

David Rodriguez, Dept. of Transportation

Mary Alice Evans, Office of Planning, Dept. of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism

Nicholas Comerford, Ph.D., University of Hawaii